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These were considered wholly in connection with the purchase of books: (1) Vesting the final authority in the librarian, a committee, or the faculty; (2) departmental apportionment; (3) relative advantages in ordering through local dealers, jobbers, or publishers. In regard to the last question, Mr. Ewell himself seemed inclined to use the local dealers, but lively discussion indicated that the feeling of the

meeting favored buying through the jobbers.

The chairman then presented to the meeting the nominations for officers for the next year: Chairman, C. S. Thayer, of Hartford Theological Seminary; secretary, Clara Clark, of Bible Teachers' Training School, New York. These officers being unanimously elected, the meeting was adjourned.

## TRAINING CLASS TEACHERS' ROUND TABLE

The Training Class Teachers Round Table met at 2:30 p. m., on Thursday, June 26, Miss Lucy L. Morgan, chairman, presiding.

The time was occupied with an informal exchange of ideas regarding matters of interest to those concerned in training class work.

## LEAGUE OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONS

### FIRST SESSION

The League of Library Commissions was called to order at 2:30 p. m., June 25, by the president, Mrs. Elizabeth Claypool Earl, who presented briefly and clearly the place of the League and the state library commission in that library development throughout the country which is anticipated by all. The president regretted the necessary omission of the midwinter meetings during her term of office, as well as the lack of development of any new plans of League work. This had been due to the extreme pressure under which all commissions and commission workers had been laboring during the war period. Everyone was doing his utmost to meet the demands for service in the various campaigns. The work involved in various drives of the library war service, food conservation, liberty loans, and others had left no time for cogitation as to what else might be done. Regrets as to the past, however, were not so important as plans for the future. The theme of the first session was announced as "The relation of the commission to the individual library," and Mrs. Earl presented as the first speaker,

Dr. C. C. Williamson, of the New York Library, whose paper was entitled.

#### A LOOK AHEAD FOR THE SMALL LIBRARY (See p. 141)

Dr. Williamson's paper was followed by a warm discussion. Mr. Wellman, of Springfield, stated that while central machinery is necessary if the small libraries of the state are to function well, the plan of having district superintendence has not always worked satisfactorily in Massachusetts. He agreed with Mr. Williamson's suggestion that an organized backing by influential men of the community, whether library trustees or not, was needed to make possible the right sort of legislation and administration. He felt that the big question in small towns was to get the communities to read good books, and questioned whether the approximate failure of the library movement there was not due to the tastes of the populace rather than to lack of the best machinery.

Mr. Bliss, of Pennsylvania, stated that before he could endorse Dr. Williamson's conclusions a more definite description of what was meant by the small library was needed. He did not desire to get rid of

the efficient small library. He did not believe in any scheme of certification which had been proposed yet and thought that library associations should look first at the efficiency of the service which a library was giving, not at its size.

Miss Downey, of Utah, held that an undue contrast had been made between the relative efficiency of the small and large library. The rural circulation per capita is stronger in rural communities than in cities, and, in general, rural library work has kept up with city work. Her belief was that we need help and standardization from top to toe of the profession, in commissions and libraries of all sizes.

Miss Tyler, of the Western Reserve Library School, approved highly of Dr. Williamson's paper, as she thought that the League and the commissions needed outside viewpoints. She thought that standardization of commissions was needed even before that of individual libraries, and she hoped that the A. L. A. Survey Committee would help here. She felt that a county unit was needed for efficiency of libraries in small communities; also that spreading the influence of the summer library school was the best way of developing the proper personnel. She did not feel that it would be possible to develop an organization of laymen who were conversant with library needs and conditions outside of the body of library trustees in any state.

Miss Crumley, of Georgia, stated that Georgia has no paid commission workers and badly needs such for pushing library work throughout the state.

Mr. Lowe, of Massachusetts, approved Mr. Williamson's proposal of a league of laymen to back library movements, and cited Mr. Vanderlip's splendid work in the library war service. He thought that commissions needed a better knowledge of general rural conditions, such as the loss of the village young folk to the larger cities. He felt that a survey was needed immediately and that the A. L. A. committee would get better results from the smaller libraries by applying to the various com-

missions and reaching the small libraries through these organizations.

The secretary then read a paper written by Miss Margaret A. Wade, of the Indiana Commission, on

HOW THE COMMISSION WORKS WITH THE  
SMALL PUBLIC LIBRARY

(See p. 146)

The discussion to follow Miss Wade's paper was cut short by the lateness of the hour. Miss Price, of Illinois, stated that Illinois was urging the establishment of the small library on the largest area and income basis possible. She felt that the League in an effort to help the small library would do well to publish a fine basic purchase list for the new library, one similar to the Wisconsin list.

Mr. Ferguson, of California, thought the emphasis of small versus large library was unimportant, and agreed with Mr. Bliss that the real question should be strength of service. This would be gained if sufficient funds were available, therefore the area served by a library should be large enough to make possible adequate financial support. He felt that certification of librarians was necessary if the best personnel is to be obtained. On another point he emphasized the fact that a strong county library is necessary if all the residents of a county are to be served.

Miss Guerrier, of the National Library Service, was called on for an impromptu talk, and spoke briefly of the work of the service, which now has a good grip on the sources of information concerning all federal government activities. Besides being available to answer any questions; they expect to continue the bulletin, and it was announced that a digest of press releases from all federal departments would be sent to any library on request.

The paper of Miss Elizabeth B. Wales, of the Missouri Commission, was read by the secretary, the subject being

LIBRARY COMMISSIONS AND THE HIGH SCHOOL

OR RURAL SCHOOL LIBRARY

(See p. 149)

Miss Baldwin, of Minnesota, in discuss-

ing Miss Wales' paper, said that there was a great need of a standardization of school libraries, whether the work was conducted by the commission or the bureau of education. The former is usually without authority to enforce recommendations. The work of the Minnesota Commission in the school library field convinced the superintendent of education of the need of supervision. He thereupon started a school library department in his own office and annexed Miss Wilson from the commission staff. The two departments cooperated cordially and often exchanged visits in different communities. The whole Minnesota Commission by the act of the last legislature has been placed under the Department of Education with a larger appropriation and a better standing than before.

The session then adjourned.

## SECOND SESSION

The president called the second session to order at 2:30 p. m., June 27, and announced as the theme of the session "League policies necessary for meeting new problems." This session was devoted to the discussion of the work of the League as an organization. The first paper read by the secretary was written by Mrs. Minnie Clarke Budlong, of the North Dakota Commission, one of the vice-presidents of the League, Mrs. Budlong's subject being

WHAT CAN THE LEAGUE DO FOR ITS MEMBERS?

—AN EVALUATION OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONS AND THEIR LEAGUE

(See p. 286)

It was desired to postpone the discussion until all the papers on various phases of the same subject had been presented, and the president called on Mr. John A. Lowe, of the Massachusetts Commission, who presented the topic

WHAT CAN THE LEAGUE DO FOR ITS MEMBERS?

—PUBLICATIONS

(See p. 291)

Miss Mary E. Downey, library organizer under the Utah Department of Public Instruction, spoke on

WHAT THE LEAGUE CAN DO FOR STATES WITHOUT ORGANIZED COMMISSIONS

(See p. 292)

Miss Downey's paper was followed by an exceedingly lively and interesting discussion. This was opened by Miss Elva L. Bascom, formerly of the Wisconsin Commission and now with the Children's Bureau, Washington, D. C. She suggested that the topic was "How the League of Library Commissions might gain strength," and thought that the question of the individual commission was not germane at this time. She recommended that a resolution be adopted asking the A. L. A. Survey Committee to survey the League. She said that the \$600 in the League treasury would not permit any great activity on our own part, though it should be used for some useful purpose. She approved of Miss Downey's suggestion of individual memberships.

Miss Bascom went on to state that the worst situation is in states with paper leagues which have no appropriations and hence can do no work. These are always in the ultra-conservative states. The members are almost always political appointees who lack the punch as well as the necessary appropriations to accomplish things. The League needs to make a study of the commission work being done in various states, and there is need of literature on commission work and standards—something that would give in tabulated form a statement of budgets, helpers, salaries, and work accomplished of the various sorts.

Miss Rawson, of Kentucky, expressed herself as feeling that the League is altogether too self-depreciative. We forget our constant response to requests for help. She paid a tribute to the assistance rendered by the League when commission work was being started in Kentucky. She has found the League meetings and intercourse invaluable in her own work. Many states do not desire outside help and we cannot force it on them, but this does not prevent our being ready and willing to help when it is desired.

Miss Downey asked how far the League could go in these backward states without being officious. Could we ask Miss Bas-

com, for instance, to meet with the new Oklahoma commissioners and help them lay out a program?

The president said that there was no doubt of our willingness to help either individually or together, but that the League should not stop there. We should angle for invitations to help.

Miss Jones, of the Massachusetts Commission, stated that Wyoming had recently asked for help, feeling the need of an organized commission. She suggested that a list of possible commission workers was needed and that all library schools be asked for names of such graduates as would fit into this sort of work.

Miss Robinson, of Iowa, thought that one reason the value of the League is questioned is because the individual commissions are growing up and no longer need the League as much as when all commission work was new. For several years we have had no midwinter meetings, and these meetings in the middle west have always been more helpful to commission workers than the summer meetings. The League work is hard to measure, no figures can be of value in so general a work, but the League has always been a clearing-house of commission ideas and information and as such is still of the utmost value to the individual members.

Mrs. Anne E. Congdon, of Rhode Island, felt that section meetings by geographical units would be a very great help, since conditions under which middle west commissions work differ radically from those by which the eastern commissions are affected.

Miss Baldwin, of Minnesota, spoke of the earlier history and intent of the League. Originally it was merely a section of the American Library Association, but a stronger separate organization seemed advisable. The first work was the issue of certain handbooks. Now, however, the publications feature is not so important since the A. L. A. Publishing Board exists. Miss Baldwin suggested the appointment of a League Traveling Committee whose duties should be to visit

the various commissions. The country might be divided into sections, and a section assigned to each member of the committee for inspection and advice.

Mrs. Belle H. Johnson, of Connecticut, said that her state had not had much help from the League because they were unable to attend any but eastern meetings. She suggested a prompt informal meeting soon after arrival at conference so that new commission workers might get better acquainted with other workers in the same field.

The president recommended that the officers in charge of the next meeting arrange for a registration table where all commission workers can be registered. Such a table might serve as headquarters where these workers could find one another and discuss problems between sessions. She suggested also that a badge with some distinguishing feature be used to mark the commission worker. These suggestions were approved by Mrs. Johnson.

Mr. Flagg, of the Bangor, Maine, Public Library, expressed his appreciation of the helpfulness of the meetings, though like Connecticut and Rhode Island, Maine was obliged to miss meetings held at a distance.

Miss Mabel Winchell, of Manchester, New Hampshire, seconded Mr. Flagg's statement.

The discussion being ended, the president entertained a motion which was put and carried, that a committee be appointed by the chair to draw up an amendment for presentation at the next League meeting which would embody Miss Downey's suggestion of individual memberships in the League in addition to organization memberships. The secretary was appointed chairman of this committee, together with Mr. Lowe and Miss Price.

A paper was then presented by Miss Elva L. Bascom, in charge of library cooperation, Children's Bureau, Washington, D. C., her topic being

THE PLACE OF THE COMMISSION IN CHILD  
WELFARE WORK

(See p. 133)

The financial report of the secretary-treasurer was read, showing the following receipts, disbursements and balance. Four commission memberships are precarious because of non-payment of dues. In one case the commission is a branch of the state department of education and the department refuses to permit the payment.

**Treasurer's Report**

(For year ending June, 1919)

*Receipts*

Balance as audited July 4, 1918 .....	\$531.02
1918 dues paid by 4 states, Aug.-Dec., 1918.....	20.00
1918 & 1919 dues paid by 23 states, Jan.-May, 1919....	120.00
April 17, interest on Liberty Loans .....	5.05
	<hr/> \$676.07

*Disbursements*

Oct. 15, Registered bonds of fourth liberty loan.....	\$250.00
Dec. 2, Stationery, W. B. Burford .....	7.50
Apr. 3, Stationery, W. B. Burford .....	3.40
	<hr/> \$260.90
Cash balance .....	\$415.17
Bonds .....	250.00
Total .....	<hr/> \$665.17

After an explanation of the tangle in the expiration of office terms, which had resulted from the lack of midwinter meetings, the executive committee recommended fixing the specific dates for the

expiration of the terms of those officers about to be elected, this definite understanding being necessary to get all terms back to a basis in accord with the provisions of the League constitution. Conference with the commission workers present had shown a large majority in favor of the immediate resumption of the midwinter annual meeting, although a number of eastern members did not agree in this sentiment.

The nominating committee, Miss Rawson, chairman, Miss Baldwin and Mr. Bliss, then brought in the following recommendations:

For president, for two years term, expiring January, 1921: John A. Lowe, Massachusetts Free Library Commission.

For vice-presidents, for one year term, expiring January, 1920,

1. Julia A. Robinson, Iowa Library Commission.

2. Anna A. MacDonald, Pennsylvania Free Library Commission.

For additional members of the Executive Board, for three years—

Matthew S. Dudgeon, Wisconsin Free Library Commission. Term expires January, 1921 (replacing William R. Watson, whose term expired January, 1918).

Elizabeth B. Wales, Missouri Public Library Commission. Term expires January, 1922 (replacing Anna M. Price, whose term expired January, 1919).

Mrs. Minnie L. Blanton of the Executive Board and the secretary hold office until the next annual meeting.

The report of the nominating committee was accepted and approved, and after voting to instruct the secretary to cast the ballot electing the nominees, the session and conference adjourned.